

Tips for Home Visitors



BEFORE YOU GO:

- Ensure that you have obtained as much information about your client as possible.
- If possible, canvass the area around the home's address. Assess potential safety concerns and take precautions.
- Communicate your schedule and route to your supervisor. Notify your office of arrival.
- Carry only your ID, cell phone/pager, and keys.
- Do not wear clothes and shoes that can impeded your movement. Pants are best.
- Wear a name badge if you have one, but don't wear around your neck. Clip-on is best.

UPON ARRIVAL:

- Park within direct sight of the home's entry. Park in a well-lit, unobstructed area. Don't park in the driveway of the home.
- As you exit your vehicle, be attentive to people in the area and any unsecured dogs.
- Be aware of any drug paraphernalia in the area surrounding the home.
- Keep your hands as free as possible. Do not be distracted by talking on a cell phone. Carry a personal alarm if feasible. (Clip-on)

SAFETY DURING THE VISIT:

- Present yourself as calm, confident, observant, and in control.
- Position yourself between client and exit.
- Sit in a hard-backed chair.
- Have an excuse to leave prepared in advance.
- Be aware of your surroundings and leave if your instincts tell you to.
- Pay particular attention to the client's protectiveness relating to certain rooms of the home.
- Leave the home immediately if you smell chemicals.

**For more information on meth and related concerns, contact the Indiana Meth Watch Program.
(877) 855-METH**

Possible Meth Lab Activity

UNUSUAL SECURITY/VENTILATION

MEASURES:

- Baby room monitors being used outdoors
- Video surveillance systems positioned to observe exterior of home
- Elaborate fencing and heavy duty locks when it is not evident what is being secured
- Fans positioned to ventilate the home
- Night vision equipment
- Protective, aggressive dogs

METH PRODUCTION CHEMICAL ODORS

- Ether-like: Aromatic, sweet odor often accompanied by a sweet taste. Sometimes described as a “hospital odor.”
Nasal irritant.
- Solvent-like: Sweet odor from common solvents used in paint thinners, paint removers, adhesives, and cleaning fluids. Type of odor often found in an auto body shop.
Eye and nasal irritant.
- Ammonia-like: An intense, sharp, irritating odor similar to but much stronger than that from wet diapers, glass cleaners, cattle feedlots or fertilizers. **Eye and nasal irritant.**

ADDITIONAL METH LAB INDICATORS:

- Reddish stained coffee filters, canning jars with multi-colored liquids, aquarium-type tubing used in bottles or jugs
- Battery casings, crumpled/burnt foil
- Light bulbs with filament removed
- Windows blacked out or covered
- Bottles with clear tubing in the cap
- People in and around meth manufacturing may exhibit respiratory irritation and/or chemical burns

INDICATORS OF METH USE:

- Dilated pupils
- Restlessness/agitation
- Paranoia and hallucinations
- Hyperactivity and compulsiveness
- Aggressiveness and violent behavior
- Talkativeness



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If you suspect meth production, leave the home immediately and contact your local law enforcement agency

Phone: _____